

interconnection is referred to as an " n^2 mesh," or an " n^2 switching fabric." The mesh is described in greater detail in U.S. Patent application number 09/746,212, entitled "A FULL MESH INTERCONNECT BACKPLANE ARCHITECTURE," filed December 22, 2000, which is assigned to the corporate assignee of the present application and incorporated by reference.

[Please replace paragraph 0042 on page 13 with:]

a2 In one embodiment, each backplane link between an ingress interface card and an egress interface card can carry up to 48 STS-1 channels. As mentioned above, in one embodiment, each interface card includes 20 ingress TSIs. Thus, the bandwidth provided by a 20 TSI interface card is 960 STS-1 channels. By changing the number of TSIs and the number of interconnections across the backplane, the number of STS-1 channels supported can be modified. A protocol for use in communicating over the mesh is described in greater detail in U.S. Patent application number 09/745,982, entitled "A BACKPLANE PROTOCOL," filed December 22, 2000, which is assigned to the corporate assignee of the present invention and incorporated by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel ~~claims 2, 7 and 12~~ without prejudice.

An unmarked copy of the current claims is presented below.

a3 sub B' 1. (Amended) A network switch comprising:
a backplane; and
a plurality of interface cards coupled to the backplane via an interface, the interface cards coupled to receive multiple channels of network traffic from external sources, the plurality of interface cards to receive one or more channels of data according to a time division multiplexed (TDM) protocol and one or more channels of data